



PRESS RELEASE

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Charter School Co-Founder and High School English Teacher Re-Elected Commission Chair and Vice Chair for 2011

Dr. Ting Lan Sun and **Mr. Charles Gahagan** were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for 2011. The two were re-elected by acclamation at the Commission's December 10, 2010 meeting and will serve through December 2011.

In accepting the nominations, Dr. Sun thanked her colleagues for their support and faith this year. Mr. Gahagan noted the care and altruism that he sees in the Commission and said that he was honored to be considered for Vice Chair.

During their 2010 term, Dr. Sun and Mr. Gahagan led the Commission in adopting [innovations for preparing science, math and career technical education teachers](#), aligning California Special Education programs with national standards, [approving new programs to prepare teachers of students with autism](#), and providing [new guidance for instructing English Learners](#).



Ting Lan Sun has more than 23 years in the field of education and has been actively involved in the charter schools movement for over 18 years as a teacher, administrator, and school operator. The co-founder and Educational Programs Director of the Sacramento-based Natomas Charter School, Dr. Sun directed curriculum, instruction, staff development, and professional growth. From 1997–2000, she was an Educational Programs Consultant in the California Department of Education's Charter Schools Unit where she participated in the development of charter school administrative policies and regulations, and the administration of the federal public charter schools grant program. She has also served as a senior consultant for Cambridge Education, an international school quality review and educational consulting firm.

Dr. Sun was Vice President of Leadership and Quality for the California Charter Schools Association from 2003-2006 where she developed and implemented the Association's

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quality assurance strategy and initiatives, including standards articulation, quality site visits and program reviews. She was also responsible for technical assistance publications, knowledge briefs, reports and articles commissioned, issued and published by the organization. In addition Dr. Sun has created, directed and implemented effective leadership training programs in all aspects of charter school administration and served as a mentor for the Leadership for Educational Entrepreneur (LEE) Program at Arizona State University.

In addition to her current role as Chair of California's Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), Dr. Sun also serves on the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) Advisory Committee and is on the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) sub-committee. She also serves as a board member of the Golden 1 Credit Union.

Dr. Sun received her bachelor's degree in Latin and English from Austin College, a master's degree in education from Stanford University, and a doctorate of education from the University of California at Davis.



Charles Gahagan has taught high school English since 1969, with the exception of 1971 to 1974, when he served in the U. S. Army Security Agency as a Russian interpreter. He earned his B.A. from Michigan State University and his M.A. from Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, both in English literature. He holds a single subject credential in English, as well as CLAD and GATE certificates. He moved to California from Michigan in 1986 to help open Moreno Valley Canyon Springs High School, where he still teaches AP English literature. An English department co-chair and co-chair of the school's WASC Leadership Team, he was a principal designer of the school's four career academies, all of them California

Partnership Academies. He has taught most courses found in a high school English department, including core classes, support classes, newspaper, yearbook, film studies and humanities. A workshop presenter for the SB 472 teacher training program, he has also taught education classes and conducted other teacher workshops. He has been active in new-teacher support since 1992, first as a mentor teacher, then as a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Support Provider. Since 1999, he has been the spelling master for the Riverside County Spelling Bee.

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